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Item 20 of the provisional agenda

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Report by the Director-General

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Introduction

1. The General Conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution).

2. The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization.

3. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (sixth) of the Conference was held in Vienna from 4 to 8 December 1995.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Date and place of the Conference

4. At its sixth session, in decision GC.6/Dec.22, the General Conference decided that its seventh session should be held in Vienna from 1 to 5 December 1997.

5. In this connection, as for the sixth session, the Austrian Federal Government has placed at the disposal of UNIDO conference facilities at the Austria Center Vienna (ACV) free of charge for meetings that cannot be accommodated by the conference facilities of the Vienna International Centre.

Office space for delegations

6. Office space for delegations and their permanent missions required during the seventh session of the Conference can be rented in the ACV. Delegations wishing to rent such offices are invited to contact, as soon as possible, Ms. Alice Baar, Director of Organization Department, ACV (telephone 2369 ext. 2323).

Budgetary matters

7. The resources available for the holding of the seventh session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 1996-1997, total $1,827,900.

8. The budget of the Conference is based on the following assumptions:

(a) The seventh session will last five working days providing for 10 plenary meetings, five main committee meetings and five geographical group meetings;

(b) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) Summary records, which will be provided for plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee, will be issued—to the extent possible—in English during the session and the other five languages will be issued as soon as possible after the session.

Agenda

9. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General Conference. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12 of those rules of procedure, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items, submitted to it by the Director-General.

10. Annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and earlier relevant decisions by the Conference or other organs of the Organization will be issued following the seventeenth session of the Board and will be updated to take account of relevant decisions adopted by the Board at its eighteenth session.

11. The draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present document. The Industrial Development Board at its sixteenth session had before it a note by the Secretariat on the preparation of the provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Conference (IDB.16/20). The Board agreed to include specific additional agenda items in the list of items of the draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Conference contained in the annex to document IDB.16/20 (GC.7/3, para. 39). Furthermore, item 11 (Industrial Development Fund) has been included by the Director-General. While there is no specific reporting mandate for that item, its inclusion is based on pledging procedures established for the Fund (see decisions IDB.1/Dec.14 and GC.1/Dec.32).

Documentation

12. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda shall be distributed by the Director-General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the provisional agenda, as far as possible at the same time as the provisional agenda (ninety days before the opening date) and in any event not

later than forty-five days before the opening date of a regular session.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

13. In view of the short duration of the Conference, the organization of its work is of paramount importance. The Board may therefore wish to consider this question as soon as the provisional agenda has been finalized. In planning the schedule of work, as in the past, account should be taken of the time required at the plenary for the general debate and for possible voting on some items. With this in mind, in previous sessions, a maximum length of seven minutes was suggested for statements of delegations in the general debate.

14. It will be recalled that, at its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its seventh session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see paras. 7 and 8 above). Concerning the organization of the debates, following the pattern of previous sessions, all items would be taken up in plenary, with the substantive items (i.e. 7 to 23 of the tentative provisional agenda) being considered in the form of a general debate. Items 7 to 23 would also be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

15. The work of the previous sessions of the Conference was also greatly facilitated by the setting up, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Board, of an informal contact group for the preparation of the Conference. Such an informal contact group, composed of representatives of permanent missions to UNIDO in Vienna, met during several months before the holding of each session of the Conference and prepared a report with recommendations covering most of the items on the agenda as well as organizational matters.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

16. The Board may wish:

(a) To finalize the provisional agenda for the seventh session of the General Conference on the basis of the tentative provisional agenda contained in the annex to the present document;

(b) To make recommendations to the Conference concerning the allocation of items to a main committee of the Conference (see para. 14 above) and the confinement to a limited number of important substantive subjects for the general debate at the plenary;

(c) In the light of the experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, to recommend that, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Board, representatives of permanent missions in Vienna organize an informal contact group for the preparation of the seventh session of the Conference.

Annex

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, SEVENTH SESSION

	Item	Mandate
1.	Opening of the session.	Rule 34
2.	Election of officers:	Rule 35
	(a) Election of the President;	
	(b) Election of other officers.	
3.	Adoption of the agenda.	Rule 17
4.	Organization of work.	Rules 44-47
5.	Credentials of representatives to the Conference.	Rule 28
6.	Elections to organs:	Rule 102
	(a) Industrial Development Board;	
	(b) Programme and Budget Committee.	
7.	Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth regular sessions and of its seventh special session.	Rule 13.1 (c)
8.	Annual reports of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization for 1995 and 1996.	Rule 13.1 (b)
9.	Policy framework of UNIDO.	GC.6/Res.1, para. 5(c)
10.	Financial matters:	
	(a) Financial situation of UNIDO;	GC.6/Dec.15 (f)
	(b) Scale of assessments of Member States;	Rule 13.1 (k)
	(c) Working Capital Fund;	Financial regulation 5.4
	(d) Appointment of external auditor.	Financial regulation 11.1 GC.6/Dec.18
11.	Industrial Development Fund	GC.1/Dec.32
12.	Financial Regulations of UNIDO	
13.	Medium-term programme framework, 1998-2001.	GC.2.Dec.23 (b)(vi) GC.6/Dec.10
14.	Programme and budgets, 1998-1999.	Rule 13.1 (i)
15.	Development of human resources for industry.	GC.6/Res.4, para. 2
16.	Integration of women in industrial development.	GC.6/Res.5, para. 3
17.	Environmentally sustainable industrial development.	GC.6/Res.6, para. 6
18.	Industrialization of the least developed countries.	GC.6/Res.8, para. 3(c)
19.	Private sector development.	GC.6/Res.9, para. 2
20.	Industrial investment promotion	GC.7/3, para. 39
21.	The regional dimension	
	(a) Africa (in particular the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa);	GC.6/Res.11, para. 2(d)
	(b) Arab countries programme, including technical assistance to the Palestinian people;	GC.6/Res.12, para. 3
	(c) Asia and the Pacific;	GC.6/Res.13, para. 3
	(d) Latin America and the Caribbean.	GC.6/Res.14, para. 2
22.	Geographical distribution of Managing Directors	GC.7/3, para. 39
23.	Personnel matters: United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund	GC.6/Dec.19
24.	Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.	GC.1/Dec.41, annex
25.	Appointment of the Director-General.	Rule 103
26.	Date and place of the eighth session.	
27.	Closure of the session.	